MOORE-SANFORD FARM, DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

DRAFT ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MTSU CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
History • Education • Architecture
Report prepared by:

Ashley Brown, Jenny Andrews, Carroll Van West
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Graduate students in Seminar in Historic Preservation, Spring 2016
I. MOORE FARM

MOORE FARM HOUSE (C. 1929)
Exterior Woodwork

The soffits are generally in good shape around the building, minor repairs may be necessary but they are not extensive. The paint on the soffits, trim, and window frames are pealing. Testing needs to be conducted in order to determine if any of this paint contains lead. In the event the test is positive for lead then a certified lead abatement company needs to professionally remove the paint before the house can receive a fresh coat. An area of concern is the porch roof on the front of the house (generally south facing wall). The roof appears to have water beginning to penetrate the corners.

EXTERIOR: ELECTRICAL CONCERNS

The electrical wiring to the house is outdated, damaged, and will need to be repaired or replaced. Wiring is disorganized and exposed which could easily receive further damage. Damaged wiring is a fire hazard and needs to be replaced immediately. The light switch in the second floor is missing and has exposed wires. A professional electrician will be required in order to bring the electrical system up to code. Electrical boxes in the basement need to be covered and locked in order to prevent access by anyone not authorized.
EXTERIOR WINDOWS

All of the windows throughout the house need to be repaired. While almost all of the panes of glass are present, undamaged and consistent in age, the frames and pulley systems are rotting away. Each of the windows needs to be removed, cleaned, frames repaired, and painted. The basement windows also need attention, as they are cracked and will eventually need to be replaced. Repairing the windows will help to maintain temperature and humidity efficiency, prevent future water damage that is currently present throughout the house, and keep out insects.
Interior

Second Floor

The second floor and attic addition are generally in good shape, however there are a few issues that need to be addressed as soon as possible.

First, the second floor needs to be cleared of all personal items, a process that is underway but will be difficult during the hot summer months. Not until the area is cleared can a full assessment take place. Plus it will reduce the risk of vermin, fire and health hazards.

Second, there is a gap between the brick and wood of the attic addition on the southwest corner. This gap needs to be closed in order to maintain temperature and humidity, keep out wind and water, and prevent vermin and insects from entering.

Third, the ceiling, wall paneling, and floorboards around the chimney (south wall) need to be replaced. This area has been subject to significant water damage. It is unlikely that this water damage is recent or ongoing. This damage continues to the first floor, as will be demonstrated below.
Fourth, the ceiling panels have warped due to temperature and humidity. This has caused much of the trim/molding throughout the entire second floor to become separated, cracked, and warped. While there is not safety or structural concerns with this it should be addressed at some point in order to maintain what is still present and salvageable.

Fifth, there are still hazardous chemicals on the stairs leading to the first floor, additionally the fabric attached to the stairs has come loose and should be removed in order to prevent tripping or slipping. Finally, there are several cracks in the plaster around the stairs. These cracks appear to be due to stress caused by people using the stairs.
Sixth, the stairs will require a handrail in order to meet building codes, especially if the public will be taken to the second floor.

**Interior**

**First Floor**

**Den (former bedroom)**

The Den has three preservation issues.

First, the ceiling and walls have many hairline cracks in the plaster. Many of these cracks, particularly on the ceiling, have been patched. A new coat of paint will hide much of this.
Second, plaster on the south wall shows additional water damage, which likely caused much of the ceiling damage. This water damaged plaster needs to be repaired and any plumbing issues in the wall need to be addressed (the bathroom tub is on the other side of this wall).

Third, as mentioned above, the windows need to be repaired and refinished. At some point there was extensive water damage due to a leaky window frame. The veneer and plaster will need to be replaced at the same time as the window repair. It is likely that there will be structural wood that will also need to be repaired or replaced.
Bathroom

The Bathroom is generally in good shape. Aside from the window repair, the other issues in the bathroom are purely cosmetic. Some minor cracking in the plaster has taken place, and some of the wallpaper has begun to pull away from the wall, particularly in the corners, and some mold to be removed from the closet door. The closet needs to be thoroughly cleaned; chemical residue abounds.

Bill's Bedroom

Due to the extensive water damage that follows the chimney from the attic, through the second floor and continuing through the first floor, there has been significant repair work done on the ceiling, and walls. For the long-term, it would be best to replace the veneer and plaster so as to avoid mold growth. Additionally, there are many hairline cracks in the paint and plaster throughout the room.
Mary’s Bedroom (formerly a parlor or den)

Mary’s bedroom is in similar condition to Bill’s. Though less extensive than in the previous room, there is damage around the fireplace, which is likely a result of the water damage described above. Cracks in the paint and plaster are also present throughout the room but are generally not serious. The ceiling tiles need to be studied further as there has been concern that they contain asbestos. If this is the case these tiles need to be removed.

Hazardous Materials

While much of the hazardous materials have been removed from the house, there are still containers containing paint and chemicals scattered throughout. These materials are generally located, but not limited to, the first floor addition, second floor stairs, and basement. Additional safety concerns include confirming or denying the existence of lead based paint, and asbestos ceiling tiles, plant remains in the basement. The second floor staircase is a general concern as the cloth on them is loose. The house is generally lacking in safety measures like fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. The furnace piping hangs low in the basement and can easily be a hazard. There need to be handrails added to the both sets of stairs. Finally, the stairs leading to the basement need to be reinforced to accommodate the weight of more than one person. These areas of concern are top priorities for the longevity of the house and the safety of those who work and enjoy it.
Recommendations for Moore House

Routine: Monitor for water damage, and other changes in the house—especially after a storm. Ensure that doors and windows are secure when the building is not occupied.

Immediate (Less than 6 months): The immediate issues that need to be addressed are the hazards. Before the public should be brought into the house all of the dangerous chemicals, plant materials, asbestos tiles need to be removed. The stairs between the first and second floor should have the carpeting removed, and a handrail needs to be installed.

Immediate (Less than 6 months): After the house has been cleared out, the gap in the second floor storage room needs to be closed. This will keep out pests, water, and will prevent further damage to the house.

Immediate (Less than 1 year): Within one year the electrical system needs to be addressed. Unnecessary wiring needs to be removed, the condition of interior wiring needs to be certified, and wiring into the house needs to be professionally redone. The electrical boxes in the basement need to be properly labeled and locked.

Short Term (1-3 Years): The windows to the house need to be repaired and sealed. Almost every windowpane is in repairable condition, it is the framing and the pulleys that need to be replaced. This repair will help to keep pests out of the house.
Short Term (1-3 Years): The exterior paint needs to be tested for lead. If lead is present, a professional lead abatement company needs to properly remove this hazard before a fresh coat of exterior paint is applied.

Short Term (1-3 Years): Update safety equipment such as fire extinguishers and first aid kits.

Short Term (1-3 Years): Replace the wood paneling in the second floor around the old water damage.

Long Term (3-5 Years): Replace the damaged plaster and repaint the second floor rooms.
Moore House Floor Plans

Storage Addition
Ceiling: 8'10"
Ceiling Angles at
45 degrees from
west down to east.

Upstairs
Ceiling: 8'2"

[Diagram showing floor plan with measurements and notes]
MOORE FARM OUTBUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Moore Barn, West Side of Property

Location of building: in the pasture on the west side of Old Hickory Road; attached is the dairy barn

Structural damage/repair issues/hazards:

Exterior

- on the front of the building there are open seams between some of the panels of sheet metal; one sheet on the lower left has a crack in it
- the sliding metal door is bowed; a bush is blocking it from being opened as well
- the two front windows are missing glass
- vines are growing up the front of the barn—some are extending under the roof
- the fascia board under the eaves is rotting—some has already been eaten away by rot

Interior

- the floor of the aisle is uneven and full of rocks
- On the first room to the south, the support beam in the right front corner has a crack in it that goes all the way up to the ceiling; some sheet metal is coming off the wall; some water damage to the
boards on the front of the barn; there is a crack in the pole on the outside wall, farthest away from the door

- On the second room to the south (probably the tack room), there is a little moisture in the center of the ceiling from the moisture in the hay loft
- the ladder to the loft on the north side of the barn, front, is safe, as is the floor in the middle of the loft. The floor on the sides of the loft is rotting, and there are already several holes in it.

Loft

- the ladder in the feed room has a large crack in it
- raccoons are using the loft
- there are several holes in the floor that can be easily seen from the top of the ladder in the feed room; it was unsafe for students to venture farther into the loft
- lumber, sheet metal, hay, and other heavy items are stored on this unsafe floor and causing it to buckle
Electrical damage/repair issues:

There is a floodlight on the outside of the barn; there are also lights in the aisle and in at least some of the stalls. There are also outlets. All should be checked before the electricity is turned back on.

Other observations:

- the unfinished cedar posts reflect an earlier method of timber construction; perhaps re-used?
- one of the stall floors is poured concrete that is covered with dirt; floors of the other stalls may have been covered in the same way;
- the second room on the south was probably the tack room. There are still a couple of grooming brushes and a halter in here, as well as many old cans and bottles and some extra wood and junk. There are nails around the perimeter to hang halters and bridles and poles that could have been used to hold saddles or collars;
- the far (west) end of the barn has board and batten construction; the rest of the barn is just wide planks put flush next to each other

Dairy production extension; south elevation of Moore Barn

Exterior

- Looking at the south side of the building, windows west to east, numbering 1 to 6:
  o windows 1, 3, 5, and 6 are gone
  o 5th window: you can see the ceiling coming down due to wet hay in the loft. This is the most dangerous part of the ceiling damage, but it is not the only ceiling damage.
  o windows 2 and 4 need to be repaired
• vines are climbing the wall and have grown under the roof
• the lower corner of the building farthest away from the slab is bowing out
• the foundation undulates instead of being a straight line
• the metal siding, which covers red board and batten, does not go all the way to the roof line
• Back side of building near the water trough:
  • There is an electrical outlet right over the water trough

Interior

• there is extensive ceiling damage along the right side of the barn- the ceiling is coming down in several places due to the wet hay that is stored in the loft. This problem has gotten worse in the last two months and must be addressed immediately.
- water is coming in through the ceiling on the other side of the dairy barn as well, although the damage is nowhere near as bad yet
- there are at least two bird's nests in the dairy barn
- there is barbed wire hanging on nails low enough for a person to get tangled in it
• there are big and small containers of various hazardous chemicals to be removed

Electrical damage/repair issues:

• There are a few dangling cut wires throughout the dairy barn. All of the other wires, outlets, and light sockets should be thoroughly checked by an electrician before the electricity is turned back on
Other observations:

There are holes in the wall on the back side of the building near the water trough for hoses to fit through right near the outdoor water spigot.

Once used for livestock, the building is now used to store all sorts of things: lumber, barbed wire, roof shingles, old stove/oven, lawn mower, barrels of chemicals, old doors, old gates, fencing, a washing machine, extra blades and parts for machinery,

**Dairy Composting Barn**

**Structural damage/repair issues/hazards:**

- roof is bent in a couple of places, but not badly
- on the left side, there is an open seam between two of the metal wall panels
- there is a concrete pad behind the building with a pole at each corner. The front two poles are badly bent

**Electrical damage/repair issues:**
• this building has electricity, including a dangling wire and two outlets

Other observations:

• building has a concrete floor under dirt, except for some wooden boards at the back of the structure
• the building has drainage pipes that lead out the back
• there is a pole in the center of the building that is bolted to the floor and the ceiling
• there are holes cuts for pipes in the back wall
• there is a spigot close by where they could have hooked hoses up
• follows University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension structural plan T4146 “Covered Composting Shed for Dairy Waste” www.utextension.utk.edu

Cement slab outside of Dairy Barn

Structural damage/repair issues/hazards:

• there are several large pieces of rusty sheet metal on top of the slab that need to be removed

Dairy Processing Building

Exterior

• the asbestos siding that covers all sides of the wood structure is starting to come off
• vines are growing on the building and causing serious damage
• there is one open seam on each side of the roof, but in general it looks OK
• there is a fallen electric pole resting on the roof

Interior

• there is a board coming down from the ceiling
• there are many bottles and containers of hazardous chemicals that need to be removed

Electrical damage/repair issues:

This building is wired for electricity; all lights and outlets should be checked before the electricity is turned back on. The electric pole needs to be set upright and the wires on it need to be checked for safety.

Other observations:

• It has a cement floor with a drain in it.
• It has several doors that have been blocked off, including one that used to be an exterior door.
• There is still a refrigerator in the building, which contains antibiotics for the cattle.
• Repurposed several times, at some point the building became a storage space. Looks like it has been remodeled and repurposed several times
Chicken Coop

Exterior

- Several cinder blocks have cracked, weakening foundations and walls

- the people door is completely separated from the building and the door frame is in pieces on the ground. Nails are sticking out of the cinder blocks from where they were used to secure the door jamb. Cattle have left evidence of their presence inside the building.

- there are some vines climbing the building
• On the south side facing the house, the lower right window pane is cracked

Interior

• the nest boxes are dirty but structurally sound
• the platform below the perching is badly damaged and falling apart
• in the side of the chicken coop that was used to store grain and supplies, the screen is gone from the upper part of the screen door
• something has burrowed under the wall separating the two parts of the chicken coop

Privy

Structural damage/repair issues/hazards:

• the building is made of sheet metal; the back has caved in and has separated from the sides
• located uphill from the spring and the pond and way too close to the water source
• the whole structure is unstable
• vines have infiltrated the building
• The spring is full of plastic bottles, old tires, and other trash. It needs to be cleaned out before the park is open and visitors think that they can dump their trash there too.

Open Garage and the attached shed on its north

Structural damage/repair issues/hazards:

• some of the rear wall is coming loose- it has separated from the south wall by about 12 inches
• the building still contains paint, chemicals, and fertilizer (ammonium nitrate which is leaking) that needs to be removed
Other observations:

- the rear of the building was added at a later date than the front part of the building- the boards are narrower and there is no dovetailing on the inner wall
- the floor is poured concrete with dirt poured on top of it
- there is a half-loft with lumber in it
- the poles are unfinished

**Workshop**

**Structural damage/repair issues/hazards:**

- this building has a half-loft that is used to store lumber. Between each board, and roughly the width of each board, is cardboard with insulation that is not safe to stand on. Some of the cardboard and insulation are hanging down as if rodents had nested in them and/or dug through them
- there are cracks in the asbestos siding on the exterior of the building; the cattle may have leaned or rubbed on these spots. The asbestos siding needs to be removed according to EPA standards.

- there are hazardous chemicals stored here that need to be removed

**Electrical damage/repair issues:**

- This building has electricity, with many lights and outlets. Each should be checked before the electricity is turned back on.
Other observations:

- the foundation in the back half of the building is solid cement, but the front of the building has a dirt floor; the roof looks like it was replaced after the tornado c. 1971
- the back part of the building looks older than the front- it has a different floor (cement) and different support poles

Metal Pre-fabricated Sheds (c. 1980-1990) and Metal Gas Tanks

Structural damage/repair issues/hazards:

- very rusty; rust has made some holes in the roofs
- the sheet metal is often loose; the panels are coming apart at places
- there are old cans of motor oil and other chemicals, some empty and some full, which need to be disposed of properly.
- The gas tanks are excellent artifacts related to use of machinery at the farm and should be preserved if there are no issues with buried gas tanks or other chemical wastes.
Well House, north side of dwelling

Structural damage/repair issues/hazards:

- vegetation is growing within a few inches of the building, although it is not climbing it
- there should be a lock on the door to keep children from entering it

Fencing

There is a good deal of fencing at the Moore Farm, especially right behind the barn. There is barbed wire on top of some of it. Since children like to climb fences, all of the fencing should be checked for structural soundness. Children should not be allowed to wander around the barn without supervision. The barbed wire can be removed without affecting the rest of the fencing.
LANDSCAPE REPORT TO COME
The Sanford home is in immediate danger from serious moisture damage caused by the infestation of ivy and other vegetation on and too close to the structure. Once the vegetation has been cut back, more evaluation needs to be taken of how much damage has been done on the rear of the house walls and roof.
There is an opening where animals have been entering and exiting through the broken vent at the foundation at the rear of the house that needs to be sealed immediately. The debris and large hole at the rear of the house also needs to be cleaned up and sealed for safety purposes. Hornet’s nests around the property also need to be remedied.

Though the building is in relatively good condition, the foundation needs to be monitored periodically in the future specifically regarding the slight slant and dipping of the floor in the back hallway.

**Interior**

We recommend keeping several items and furniture pieces for display and interpretation at the Moore family farm house. There are several pieces of c. 1960 Colonial Revival case furniture that should be moved from the Sanford House to the Moore House. These pieces are the secretary, a china cabinet, and a marble top table.
Evelyn’s house included several sets of valuable china and dishes which can be used for display in the dining room, however not everything could be displayed at once. Sets of china, dishes and other items could be periodically rotated throughout the year depending on the curator’s goals, but proper storage in archive level protective boxes for the items not on display needs to be a priority. Links to places where proper archival storage can be purchased is provided at the end of the recommendation summary.

Recommendations

- Immediately cut back the Ivy to prevent any more moisture damage
  - Evaluate the damage, get into the attic and under foundation
- Seal up the hole in the rear foundation
- Eliminate the Hornets nests
- Dipping and slanted floor in the back hallway, more investigation needed
- Store extra china in archival level storage:
  - http://www.gaylord.com/c/Archival-Storage-Boxes
Sanford Hay Barn

Exterior

- several boards are loose
- several boards and some metal sheeting are bowing out due to hay on the inside of the barn leaning against it
- there are gaps at the seams between the metal shingles on the roof
- there are two different kinds of metal sheeting on the building, some of which is damaged

- there is vegetation invading the building
- the roof leaks—some of the round bales are rotting
- several foundation stones in the wall closest to the house have been knocked out of place
- there is at least one bird's nest in the building
Other observations:

- this building may have been damaged in the tornado and then repaired/partially reconstructed
- the foundation on the other side of the barn is concrete block
- has a ladder and a hay winch but no loft
- the construction on each side of the barn looks very different—it looks like two different people built it
- the open side of the barn has hinges where gates or doors used to be

Stanford Well House (c. 1960)

Structural damage/repair issues/hazards:

- HUGE amount of dirt has blown in/washed in/been put on the floor of the building—it has nearly buried the wheels of the little Sears Craftsman mower
  - people can easily sink into this dirt, and there is a large hole under and around the mower where the family filled in a well. This is a huge safety hazard as the ground is very soft and people can fall into the hole
• there are lots of mud daubers nests
• some vines are invading the building
• beam on the left side of the building right under the roof has termite damage
• the whole building tilts downhill
• loose rumble was dumped just behind the building
• sheet metal is coming loose at the back of the building near the bottom
• vegetation is growing too close to the building

Barn/storage building (c. 1970)

Structural damage/repair issues/hazards:

• there are many mud daubers' nests and a bird's nest
• the boards at the back left of the barn are severely bowed in
• the ground on the right side is very soft, and the concrete is tilting out
• vines are growing all over the outside AND the inside of the right wall
• the whole building leans and looks as if a good strong wind would take it down

Exterior

• in the front left door, the metal that covers the wood has a ~8-inch long by 3-inch wide hole in it
• there is a crack in the cement block foundation
• part of the metal roof is coming detached from the wood frame
• vines are growing under the sheet metal; other vegetation is growing too close to the building
• each side of the building is caved in a little, as if something hit it (or a cow rubbed on it)
• some of the fascia board has rotted away
IV. MOORE HOUSE INTERIOR AND INTERPRETATION

Kitchen

The items in this kitchen represent a vast collection of kitchenware that date from circa latenineteenth century to the 1970s. The much older items most likely belonged to Mary’s mother and other family members, which Mary then inherited. The items from the 1940s to the 1970s are most likely from Mary’s personal collection and are representative of her own taste. The general categories of this collection are dishware, bakeware, cookware, silverware, and miscellaneous items. Most of the dishware are not in a complete set. Instead, there are usually one two or three pieces in the same pattern. Some of the dishes could have broken, but it is probably because they only needed enough dishware for Mary, Bill, and maybe Evelyn.

Here is a representative sample of what is currently in the collection:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dishware</th>
<th>Bakeware</th>
<th>Cookware</th>
<th>Silverware</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depression Era</td>
<td>1940s-50s Pastry Blender</td>
<td>Cast Iron - Skillet, Corn on the Cob, &amp; Bread Pan</td>
<td>Forks, Spoons, Knives</td>
<td>Recipes – Handwritten &amp; Ezell Harding Cookbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacups &amp; Saucers</td>
<td>Colander and Pestle for Making Jam</td>
<td>1950s Stockpot</td>
<td>Brand: Fairfield Silver Plate</td>
<td>Dinner Handbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937 Plates</td>
<td>Hand Crank Egg Beater</td>
<td>1950s Serving Spoon</td>
<td>Brand: Niagara Silver Plate</td>
<td>1950s Percolator with original box &amp; instructions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960s Glasses &amp; Barware</td>
<td>1970s Ekcoloy Pie Pan</td>
<td>Wooden Handle Knives</td>
<td>Brand: Court Silver Plate</td>
<td>1950s Nesting Boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970s Plates</td>
<td>1970s Bundt Pan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brand: Oneida</td>
<td>Sperry &amp; Hutchinson Trading Stamps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interpretation:

Mary Moore’s kitchen is representative of the ideals of 1950s womanhood. During this time, white middle class women were expected to get married, have children, and be the caretaker of their homes. To be truly successful in this role, she needed to immerse herself in domesticity by providing her family with nutritional sustenance in an affordable way. Although Mary never got married nor had children, she still strived for this goal. She expressed this pursuit of domesticity through four avenues – cook & baker, hostess, product consumer, and family member – as seen through the items in her kitchen. It is important to note that these themes do overlap with one another, but their individual characteristics are still present.

Cook & Baker

Mary has many cookware and bakeware items as well as countless recipes which demonstrate her commitment to nourishing her family – Bill. The bakeware items are very noticeable and would make a stronger first impression on visitors than the cookware. Some of the items that Metro Parks should consider in the initial display are:

- Personalized Trivet
  - There is a trivet hanging between the two windows in the kitchen that states “Mary’s Kitchen.” This is a powerful piece that clearly shows that the kitchen was Mary’s domain in the house, as it would have been for many 1950s women.
- Colander and Pestle
  - There is evidence of canning at the Moore Farm and this item was most likely used to make jams that were later canned.
- 1970s Nordic Bundt Pan
- Rolling Pin
- Sifter
- 1940s – 1950s Pastry Blender
- 1950s Egg Beater
- 1950s Nesting Boxes
- 1960 Coffee Canister
- Recipe Box
  - Ideally, one of her recipes would also be displayed, but this could present issues that will be discussed later in this report.
Hostess

There are items in both Evelyn’s and Mary’s houses that suggest that they enjoyed entertaining in their youth. Through hosting friends and neighbors, the women could demonstrate their effectiveness at fulfilling the 1950s ideals.

- 1950s Percolator
- 1937 Teacups & Saucers
  - One of the few matching pieces of china that Mary has in the kitchen is a 1937 teacup and saucer set. There are still only three of each, but these are mostly well-kept despite a
couple of chips. They also were most likely her mother’s so they tie together both the hostess and family themes.

- 1970s Drinking Glasses
  - These were chosen because they are the only full set of glasses that also make a striking statement to visitors.
- Copper Tea Kettle

**Product Consumer**

Women were expected to exercise frugality while providing for their families. Many companies took advantage of this through advertising and promotions programs. Mary has a few name brand items, such as Ekco Loy and Coca-Cola, in her kitchen. In order to fit with the 1950s interpretation, her trading stamp collection and storage box work best. These trading stamp brands would sell stamps to businesses who sell them to their customers. It promoted customer loyalty because after collecting a certain number of stamps, they could be redeemed for other store merchandise.

- Trading Stamp Box
- Trading Stamps
  - Brands include Sperry & Hutchinson, Quality Stamp, and Top Value

**Family Member**

Family was of the upmost importance to the 1950s woman because all of her actions were meant to better serve them. Mary’s own dedication to her family is demonstrated through the pieces that were most likely inherited from her mother or other family members. Some of these include the 1937 teacups and saucers that are mentioned in the “Hostess” section.

- Depression glass – teacup, sherbet dish, & tilt pitcher
  - While Depression glass was either free or very inexpensive during the 1930s or 1940s, it has since become rare and collectible. Curators should take special care to protect these pieces from damage or theft. However, they are interesting and often colorful pieces that would be interesting to visitors.
- China cabinet
  - The China cabinet is probably a family piece. It also serves a dual purpose as it could store the more valuable pieces that the curator still wishes to display to the public.
- Knife Storage Box
  - This piece is most likely handmade by a member of the Moore family. Like the cabinet, it serves a dual purpose as it allows for the display of the knives without directly exposing them to the public.

**Preservation:**

Many of the items in this collection are still in good condition. Some are already cracked or chipped, therefore, the curator may wish to keep these out of the kitchen or at the very least, stored in the cabinets. There are numerous recipes, many handwritten, in Mary’s collection. Curators will want to
preserve these to ensure their long term use and survival. Copies could be made to put on display if the curator finds them to be a useful interpretive device.

Two more concerns are the knives and some of the older silverware. There are many knives in this collection as well. The curator will want to either remove them from display or ensure that they are well protected to keep the public out of harm’s way. Some of the more precious silverware have already broken or worn away. Due to the age and warping of these pieces, these should be preserved and not displayed to the public.

The biggest concern is the Ezell Harding Cookbook. Due to extensive use, it is in very poor condition and many pages have already torn from the binding. Mary was keeping it in a file folder during her last years at the house. This is a valuable piece of Nashville history as it has the names of the families that contributed recipes to the book. This should be preserved and kept out of public display.

**Den (former bedroom)**

While different aspects of the Moore family farm represent the bygone practices of a rural farmer in Middle Tennessee, the den is unique to the entire room in that it represents the connection that the family had to the world around them. In looking at the various aspects of the den be it the bookshelves, the movie selection, or even Bill’s trinket table the visitor will find that this family was very much a part of the larger popular culture despite the isolation that the farm’s location implies.

Upon entering the den, the first area of note is Bill’s trinket table. While at first glance this spread of various odds and ends fails to tell anything about the family other than the fact that Bill had trouble locating a junk drawer. However, closer inspection of the items gives us plenty of clues as to how Bill enjoyed spending his downtime. Outnumbered in his own household, Bill certainly needed an area all to his own. While other studies of the house will depict the kitchen or the living room as uniquely part of the female members of the family’s story. The trinket table is where Bill seems to have spent his alone time after a long day of running the farm.

The table depicts Bill’s vices as well as his virtues. A canister of Burley & Bright “Half and Half” pipe tobacco, a number of used lighters, and an printed off-color joke share room on the table with a
miniature bible and a number of family photos. Although it is worth noting that Bill’s greatest vice, his drinking problem, is strangely absent from the table. Therefore, it is the recommendation of this assessor that a bottle or flask be added to the trinket table because it would have almost certainly been present while Bill spent his time here.

While many of the items on the table seem to be just various odds and ends from around the house (i.e. keys, pins, bits of string) a majority of the items upon the table relate to Bill’s two favorite pastimes: His tobacco and his gun. In addition to the aforementioned Burley & Bright and the lighters, a canister of gun oil and a box of bullets are also present on the table and a number of tools scattered about were almost certainly used to improve his experience with the two items including a magnifying glass, a lighter, and butane fuel. This was clearly an area of the house that Bill enjoyed pursuing his passions away from the proceedings of the women. That being said, the Den at large was not just inhabited by Bill.

The Den as a place for relaxation for the entire family is apparent by the presence of the three electronic gadgets that are key to understanding the Moore’s as consumers of popular culture: the television, the radio, and the stereo. The radio’s placement upon the shelf to the left of the entrance made it easily accessible from the various sitting areas in the room so there certainly is reason to believe that this would have been a popular device in the Den. One of the coffee mugs on Bill’s trinket table only confirms this theory as it shows that the family had been donors to Nashville Public Radio.

While the family’s vinyl collection can be found in the living room, the stereo itself is housed in the den. It is still in working order and has the potential to be used in a display of the room perhaps playing a record of one of the Moore’s favorite musicians: Willie Nelson. The Moore’s were clearly voracious consumers of music as apparent from their eclectic vinyl and sheet music collections. In the far left corner of the room, the television is the item that will almost certainly attract the most interest from potential visitors as the collection of VHS tapes underneath it best speak to the family’s pop culture consumption habits. A number of Western films (i.e. Dances with Wolves, Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid, Open Range”) speak to the rural sensibilities of the owners. Whereas an overwhelming number of Romantic Comedies (i.e. “Four Weddings and a Funeral, Sleepless in Seattle, Sabrina”) more than likely points to signs that the female members of the family were the ones who made the majority of VHS purchases. The obsession with Willie Nelson is also displayed here as “Red Headed Stranger” and a concert film are part of the displayed collection. Finally and most interestingly of all, the films of Walter Matthau are prominently featured in the collection. This could have been due to Mr. Matthau’s everyman relatability, his cranky charm, or perhaps one of the ladies found him to be quite attractive.

Similar to the VHS collection, the selection of reading material on the book shelf tells us a great deal about the family as consumers of popular culture. In the book shelf in the far right corner there are a number of selections of historical fiction and biographies that would have almost certainly been Bill’s whereas above it are cook books and gardening manuals that the ladies would have almost certainly been perusing in their free time. The bookshelf below the window displays a similar mix of shared tastes with a number of best sellers and Christian pamphlets also occupying this area. In addition to books, magazines could also be found in the Den as a large number of National Geographic and Popular Gardening magazines were found in the room and are currently displayed prominently in a shelf next one of the easy chairs.

While other articles in the overall assessment of the Moore family property will certainly focus on the daily running of the farm or the aspects of life in 20th century Middle Tennessee, this room is unique
in that it represented an escape from that daily reality. Whether it was Bill tinkering at his table, the women watching “Chocolat,” or any member flipping through the pages of the latest National Geographic, they were leaving their current existence behind. For a brief moment in this room, they escaped the physical bonds that constrained them to their seats. Allowing their minds to wander and relax from the troubles of the day. It is for this reason that I recommend this space as highly as any other for future displays on the Moore Farm and hope that it will shed light not only on the rural lifestyle of this Tennessee farming family but also provide an intimate look at the way they enjoyed themselves when the work of the day was complete.

Bill’s Bedroom

Interpretation under development.

Mary’s Bedroom

The Moore family, particularly the daughters, represent both the traditional living of rural Tennessee families but also the efforts to fully integrate into the modern world. Mary’s room acts as a “memory palace,” preserving her life through objects which speak to the importance of both fulfilling her responsibilities as a “farm woman” and attaining the sophistication and modernity associated with urban city women. The following objects illustrate the toeing of the line between tradition and modernity.

Dressing Table

Perfume, Jewelry, Makeup

The dressing table will be covered with perfume bottles, jewelry and makeup. This will speak to Mary and her sisters’ passion for finer things, which often took them to department stores in Nashville rather than the general stores which were closer at the time. This also illustrates the girls’ desire to remain fashionable despite residing on a rural farm.
Passport/Postcards

Passports or postcards from the middle 20th century should be included to illustrate the cosmopolitan lifestyle of Mary and her sisters. They traveled and made connections with people from all over the world. As these and other objects reveal, Mary traveled was quite independent throughout her life, forgoing marriage and children to work and run the household.

Fireplace Mantle

Music Box

Music box is from Cain & Sloan Co Nashville. This again reinforces the fact that the Moore family actively sought to do their shopping and leisure in the bigger city of Nashville rather than in closer cities like Smyrna or La Vergne. The company is a significant connection to the Civil Rights Movement and was later sold to Dillard’s in 1987, connecting it to larger Nashville history.

Family Photograph

A family photograph is representative of the importance of Mary’s family to her. Even in later years, Mary’s diaries are filled with information about her sisters, Aileen and Evelyn, her niece Diane, and especially her brother Bill. Mary spent decades caring for Bill, perhaps using this relationship to fulfill her role as a farm wife and matriarch. Indeed, her appropriation of the den as her room positions her in such a way that guests coming through the front door are met by her space first, revealing the head of the household.

Diplomas

Mary and Evelyn’s diplomas should be displayed on the mantle. Both girls were very educated, graduating from Teachers Colleges. Evelyn went on to become a teacher, and Mary went to work for a life insurance agent, Alden Smith, Sr.

Desk/Night Stand

Journals/Stationery

Mary appears to be a lifelong journalist, writing faithfully even in her later years. She also corresponded heavily with relatives and friends, and received numerous letters and postcards. Multiple journals were found in both her room and her sister Evelyn’s house. In the journals, Mary recorded everything from the chores done around and outside the house to the scores of sports games she followed. Her careful accounts of all things involving the house and farm reveal the depth of ownership and pride she felt for the property, regardless of whether the tasks were completed by herself or Bill.

Church Sermons/Documents

Mary was active in her church throughout her life, revealing both her spirituality and strong work ethic. She acted as the church secretary, performing a variety of tasks from writing the weekly bulletin to
turning on the A/C and heat nearly every day. This appears to have been a source of independence and power for Mary, as she took control of many aspects of the church. It is important to include these as Mary’s home was not just a place she lived, but a place she worked.

Closet

Fashionable Outfit

Items with labels such as Colony Club, Dora Gottleib, and Barbizon, which are labels with clothing from the early to middle 20th century, reflect the higher-end taste of Mary and her sisters. Rather than purchasing clothing from local stores or making them, Mary clearly did shopping in Nashville to build her wardrobe.

Work Gloves/Clothes

Work gloves or clothes should be included to illustrate that although Mary was quite cosmopolitan, she also participated in the upkeep of the house and the farm. She was a hardworking woman who completed any and all necessary tasks to ensure the efficiency and success of the farm and household. These additions reveal the complexity of Mary as she both maintained and skirted tradition in her life.

Bookcase

School Brick & Documents

Evelyn was a dedicated teacher for many years, and the school brick is a memorial to her services and talent. The inclusion of her report cards and transcripts illustrate the importance of education to her, and perhaps her view of education as a means of gaining prestige and control. Teaching was a common occupation for women in the 20th century and allowed women to gain independence and autonomy while operating within accepted parameters of female mores.

Books
Mary and her sister Evelyn had a large collection of books throughout both houses. Older books (with notes) from their childhood would illustrate the transition from students to professionals. Mary’s personal collection included classics, religious and spiritual books, and contemporary popular books. This illustrates her varied interests in both traditional literature and religious text and her love of pop culture. She was a thoughtful reader, and her diaries and journals are full of assessments of the books she read.

**Albums & Annuals**

The photo albums and school annuals again reinforce the idea that the Moore girls were social and cosmopolitan women who valued education and culture. Photographs of their travels and activities would be significant additions to illustrate their passion for life beyond the farm.

**Living Room**

First focus of interpretation is on the extensive sheet music collection; more interpretation to come.

One of the more notable and well-loved items at the Moore Farm is a Hammond organ and around two hundred or more pieces of sheet music, all of which is located in the front family room of Mary and Bill’s house. I studied this collection in order to discover an interpretive approach to discussing the role of music in the family members’ lives. After evaluating the sheet music, I believe that it would be best utilized to interpret Nashville, Tennessee’s history of music publishing and to discuss the role of downtown shopping centers in agricultural families lives.

I began my research process by packing up all of the sheet music and taking it to my house so that I could more effectively examine the collection. Transporting the sheet music necessitated that I take it out of the original order. However, as I began to go through the collection, it was plain to see that
there was not much of an original order to speak of beyond a rough sorting into genre. The collection consists predominantly of religious sheet music with publication dates ranging from ca.1839 to 2001. The items were sorted into wedding songs, Christmas songs, and miscellaneous. The condition of the sheet music varies from brand new to crumbling. I recommend storing the more delicate pieces and only setting out the newer ones for display. As the collection is rather large, I decided to separate out around eighty pieces which I deemed to be of special interest to the collection. These categories of interest include items with a direct connection to the family, sheet music specifically created for this organ, a group of flexi disc records, monthly publications, items that were published in Nashville, TN, and items with a stamp of purchase from a Nashville, TN store.

**Items with Direct Connection to the Moore Family**

The collection did not yield much concerning the lives of the Moore family. I was able to determine that Mary Moore and Evelyn Sanford played the organ, as the sheet music bears their names. The sheet music is predominantly religious but comes from different denominations and eras. There is a comparably minute amount of secular music mixed into the collection, but they appear to be love songs or classical compositions and so I assume were played at weddings. I did find a blank sheet music book, but it is filled with hand-written copied notation. All of these factors lead me to believe that the organ was played predominantly in service to the church rather than for leisure time or for creative reasons.

I did discover a number of sheet music books sent to La Vergne Presbyterian Church. The items were published between 1982 and 2001 and were addressed to the music director. Perhaps Mary or Evelyn held an official position at their church. I also found examples of writing throughout the collection but most of it was simply lyrics written into the staff margins. However, in two Christmas Carol collections, published 1936 and 1939, Evelyn had written out a program and order of services, presumably for the Christmas church service.

**Smaller Collections of Note and Publishing Houses**

The Moore collection includes around ten instructional books for the Hammond Wurlitzer organ that were mostly published in the 50s. There is also a collection of ten or so flexi discs which predominantly date from the 70s and seem to be for children’s programs. I discovered two sheet music catalogs that had promotional flexi discs stapled into the bind of the magazine. I presume that most of the collection came into the Moore’s possession in this way.

I also sorted out three monthly magazines, each with about five to ten volumes, from the Moore collection-The Choir Leader, pub. dates 1922 to 1929, The Volunteer Choir, pub. dates 1925 to 1939, and the Music Ministry, pub. dates 1961 to 1963. The Volunteer Choir and The Choir Leader were both published by the Lorenz company, founded in Ohio in 1890. The Choir Leader was first published in 1903, while The Volunteer Choir was launched in 1913 and is still in publication.\(^1\) The Music Ministry, however, was published by the Graded Press which is a publication division of United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH). The UMPH was first established in Philadelphia in 1789 and opened a Nashville, Tennessee operation in 1854.\(^2\) It is the oldest printing firm in Nashville and is still in operation today.

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\(^1\) The Lorenz Corporation, "Our History," Our History.

Nashville Publishing

In 1986, Nashville was considered to be the religious printing and publishing capital of America. Indeed, at the time, printing was Nashville’s number one industry, employing 12,000 people with gross annual sales of more than $600 million. Half of those sales were in religious publications. In the Moore collection, I was able to identify five Nashville publishing houses- Graded Press, Hemphill Music Company, Broadman Press, Abingdon Press, and Flick Music Publishing Co.

Like Graded Press, Abingdon is an imprint of UMPH, began publishing in the early 1920s and is still in operation. The Moore collection contains sheet music published by Abingdon press from 1936 to 1976. Century-old Broadman Press is also still producing sheet music as the B&H Publishing Group, an imprint of LifeWay Christian Resources. The Moore Farm collection contains Broadman Press sheet music published between 1961 and 1967. One of the more interesting pieces in the collection overall, is “Sing the Glory Down,” with words and music by Joel Hemphill. It was published independently by Hemphill Music Company of Nashville, Tennessee in 1974. The sheet music is in shape notes which are a kind of music notation that was designed to easily provide pitch information to singers. Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill were evangelical gospel singers beginning in 1966. Joel is in the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame and they have won Dove and BMI awards for their publications.

Another independant publisher is Flick Music Publishing Company. Charles Roland Flick was a 1920s ragtime musician and his work, “Shadows Across My Heart,” was published in Nashville ca. 1899. This piece of sheet music bears the stamp of the store where it was purchased- the H.A. French store on downtown Nashville’s 8th Avenue. Examining the sheet music, I realized that many of it bears stamps from the store of purchase, all of which were in Nashville, TN. I interpreted this to mean that Evelyn and Mary would make the trek into Nashville in order to purchase some of their sheet music. This point demonstrates the role of downtown business centers in the lives of agricultural families and is another mode of interpretation possible with the sheet music.

Downtown Music Shops

I discovered stamps from seven different music shops in Nashville- H.A. French, O.K. Houck, R. Dorman & Co. Music Dealers, Claude P. Street Piano Co, The Music Shop, Standard Music, and Strobel’s. In my research of Flick, I found that the relationship between the musician and the French shop is an interesting one. H.A. French was a son of Jesse French, a wealthy and successful man involved in the piano industry during the 19th and 20th century. The company was established in 1875 in Indiana and the pianos were first built in Nashville. In 1897, Jesse began publishing and selling ragtime music like Flick’s to attract interest in his pianos. H.A. himself began publishing in 1900 and Jesse French opened a storefront in Nashville on 5th Ave between Church Street and Union Ave around 1900. The Moore collection has sheet music purchased from H.A. French’s ranging in publication date from 1897 to 1933.

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5 B&H Publishing Group, “Consumer FAQ,” Consumer FAQ.
7 Karen A. Flick, “C. Roland Flick,” C. Roland Flick.
In my research, I determined that the music shops and piano franchises in Nashville were often interconnected. The Moore family purchased music from O.K. Houck’s that was published ca. 1900. Houck was the nephew of Jesse French and opened the O.K. Houck Piano Company in Memphis around 1900. By 1927, Houck had expanded his business to locations in Shreveport, LA, Little Rock, AR, and Nashville, TN. The stamp indicates that the Nashville storefront was located at 611 Church Street. As it turns out, in the late 1800s and early 1900s, many publishing and printing firms were located on or near Church street. Claude P. Street Piano Co. founded in 1914, was on Church Street. The Claude P. Street Piano Co. eventually moved to Cool Springs in Nashville and closed in 2010. The Moore family purchased from the Claude P. Street store that was published 1938 to 1951.

There are three music shops that Mary and Evelyn purchased from that were located in Nashville’s Arcade- The Music Shop, Standard Music, and Strobel’s. The Arcade, an enclosed shopping area built downtown, had its grand opening in 1903. The structure was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for architecture in 1973. I was not able to find much on all of the Arcade-based shops, but I believe Robert W. Strobel opened his shop in 1907 and it was open until at least 1985. The Moore collection contains sheet music purchased from Strobel’s with publication dates ranging from 1919 to 1949.

Conclusion

I believe that the sheet music collection is an exemplary resource for anyone interested in the history of the sacred music genre as well as sacred music publishing. What is especially interesting about this collection however, are the research possibilities concerning publishing in Nashville, TN and the history of Nashville’s downtown shopping district. The sheet music reveals that Mary Moore and Evelyn Sanford took their duties to their church very seriously and dedicated a significant part of their lives to practicing the organ and spiritual music.

Sing the Glory Down.

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The living room mantel is the one of the house's character defining interior features. The secretary, acquired in the mid-1950s, is where Mary kept much of the sheet music. The remainder of the furniture in the room dates c. 1960-c.1980.

Dining Room

The room as a place for entertainment
--The many tea sets and spare glassware suggests that Mary enjoyed entertaining when she had the opportunity, although there was a wide variety of patterns in her collection.
--**Best Items:** moss rose percolator and tea set, Sussex pattern sugar and creamer bowl

The room as a show space

--When company came over, this room would be one of the most important rooms in the house to show off, and they would have kept their best and most interesting pieces in this room.

--**Best Items:** China Buffet, Westmoreland milk glass

Mary as a traveler

--Mary loved to travel and in her dining room she had the opportunity to show off some of her favorite and more interesting pieces

--**Best Items:** Denmark cup and saucer set, the Chicago salt and pepper shakers
The family as consumers
--This family owned a fair number of items that shared an appearance with special brand name items. Although they could not afford those more special items, they could still purchase styles they liked in off brand pieces.
--Best Items: Dutch over, Tiffany style clear glassware

The room as a feminine space
--When she wasn’t entertaining, the room belonged to Mary and was her private space. She used it for every day things, particularly typing up the church bulletin.
--Best Items: typewriter

Breakfast Nook
Interpretation to be developed